

THE TOOL KIT

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“DON’T WAIT ON THE BOARD”

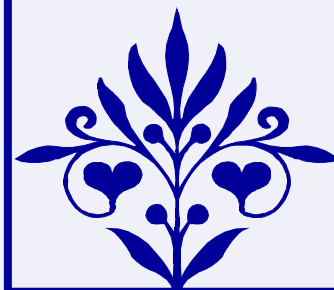
by Larry Chandler, Chair
Kentucky Parole Board

To the inmate:

HB 463, passed in the last legislative session, dictated the most far reaching changes in my career since the Consent Decree days of the 1980’s. The days of merely ‘doing time’ in prison or jail are over. The system now evaluates each inmate, devises a treatment plans for each inmate and puts that plan into action. You of course are the integral part of the plan and your participation is critical. You must address the problems that brought you to prison, you must provide input into the plan and, most importantly, you must make the plan work and you must work the plan. If you are not sincere, you will come up with a multitude of excuses of why you cannot get involved in SAP, why you can’t get into a cognitive behavior modification program like Thinking for a Change or similar program, excuses why you can’t get your GED, excuses why you can’t behave, keep a job, follow the rules and... You know better than I all the excuses and critical thinking errors that cause those other inmates to fail. On a personal note, it never made sense to me as a warden why any inmate would not take advantage of the educational opportunities provided by the KY DOC. Critical Thinking 101 or lack thereof?

If you are sincere and you truly want to change your life, pay attention to your case worker, class D coordinator and everyone who is trying to guide you to the right path. You must take responsibility for your treatment, you know what brought you to this point and by now you know what it will take to change. Go to work; do not make the Kentucky Department of Corrections work harder than you to keep you out of prison. And a final word of advice, do not wait on the Parole Board to tell you what you need, have it done when you see us. Parole is a privilege and there are absolutely no guarantees for parole. There are, however, things you can accomplish to enhance your chances for parole. There are also things you can do to decrease your chances. Simply doing good time is not enough; get to work and good luck.

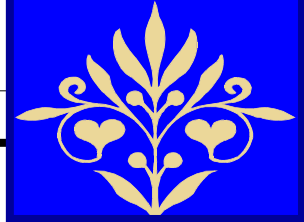
“Parole is a privilege and there are absolutely no guarantees for parole. There are, however, things you can accomplish to enhance your chances for parole.” said Kentucky Parole Board Chair Larry Chandler



INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

Parole Board	1
Parole Board Core Values	2
Qualifications for Board Members	2
Kentucky’s Reentry Report Card	3
For the first time...	5
Expungement	6
Toolbox	7
Most Frequently Asked Questions	7

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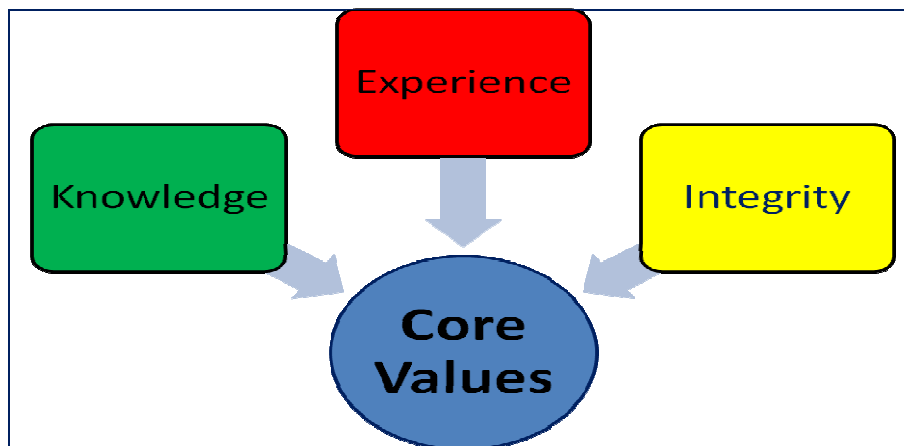


To the staff:

We realize that moving an inmate to their Case Management Plan as soon as they are received at your facility takes effort. But we also know it takes more, it takes knowledge and information. The Parole Board recognizes the importance of validated assessment instruments and the importance of evidence based programs and we hope to make your job of motivating the inmate easier by our decisions that insist inmates participate in evidence based programs, behave themselves as well as involve themselves in the positive aspects of their incarceration. We look forward to your successes.

Kentucky Parole Board Mission

The Kentucky Parole Board will make decisions that maintain a delicate balance between public safety, victim's rights, reintegration of the offender and recidivism. We will achieve this important balance by application of our Core Values:



What are the qualifications for a Kentucky Parole Board member?

The Kentucky Parole Board is composed of nine full-time members.

Board members are appointed by the Governor to four-year staggered terms. Each board member must have had at least five years of actual experience in the fields of penology, corrections work, law enforcement, sociology, law, education, social work, medicine, or a combination thereof, or must have served five years previously on the Parole Board. The board members are required to give full time to their duties.

Kentucky's Reentry Report Card TPC in Kentucky

Submitted by Gary B. Kempker
The Center for Effective Public Policy

In late 2009 Kentucky embarked on a mission to refocus their priorities and improve the way the offender population is managed both in the community and in the institutions. Fortunately, several initiatives came together to form the foundation for the work that was to be done.

Kentucky was selected by the National Institute of Corrections (NIC) to be part of the Transition from Prison to Community Initiative (TPC). The Commonwealth was successful in the competitive process in large part due to the strong commitment from the leadership of Justice and Public Safety Cabinet and the Department of Corrections. The TPC initiative brought the technical assistance of the Center for Effective Public Policy for a long term commitment to work on key initiatives that have been demonstrated to have a positive impact on public safety goals. Since 2009 key leaders from the Department of Corrections and other cabinet agencies have worked to move Kentucky into the forefront of modern corrections practices.

Fortunately, during the early stages of the TPC work the Commonwealth was also successful in soliciting assistance from the Bureau of Justice Assistance. This assistance allowed the Center for Effective Public Policy to provide a statewide training on reentry practices to 250 leaders of the agency. This training proved to be an important "springboard" for the work that was to be undertaken. Never before has a jurisdiction had the opportunity to bring the leadership of the agency together for a significant training event just prior to starting the TPC process.

Early in the process the Governor appointed a cabinet level reentry task force. A steering team of high level administrators from various government and community agencies was also formed to develop recommendations for the initiative. Internally, the Department of Corrections developed the Kentucky Alliance for Reentry Efforts (KARE) to manage the many agency changes that were to come about. All of these groups have worked tirelessly to improve practices related to offender management.

The focus of the groups during the last two years has centered on several key areas. Those areas include:

- An actuarial risk/needs assessment tool
- Case Management
- Evidence-Based Programs to address criminogenic needs
- Quality assurance



Early in the process the Level Of Service /Case Management Inventory (LS/CMI) assessment tool was selected as the instrument that would best identify the risk of recidivism level and needs of offenders. To date, more than 20,000 assessments have been conducted. This development

continued on page 4

Kentucky's Reentry Report Card continued.....

marks the first time the Department of Corrections had access to information regarding the likelihood of recidivism and the needs of the offender to overcome the behaviors that contribute to their criminality. The risk/needs information will help the agency make informed decisions about where offenders should be housed and the type of programming they should receive.

Work is also moving forward on the development of an Offender Case Management System that will serve as the "roadmap" for an offender while under DOC control. Driven by the assessment information, offenders will be assigned to attend evidence-based programs based on risk level and the needs identified by assessment.

To address the needs identified by assessment the agency must have programming that has been demonstrated to have a positive effect on the risk offenders pose upon release. The KARE subcommittee on Programs identified institutional programs in place and the gaps that needed to be addressed. The Branch Manager of Program Services researched programs available nationwide to determine what programs would meet the mandates of HB 463. Four (4) programs have been identified as being evidence-based, addressing the criminogenic needs identified by the risk needs assessment. Negotiations are underway to contract for these programs allowing training of staff or contract staff to implement the programs at the earliest possible date.

Finally, quality assurance of all of the initiatives is paramount. Staff must have confidence that the assessments, case plans and programming are consistently applied and monitored for accuracy. Work plans have been developed for all of the initiatives to build a system that demonstrates confidence in the decision making process.

In addition to the TPC initiative Kentucky has been extremely successful in bringing other resources to the Commonwealth to assist with the transformation efforts. Assistance has been provided by the Second Chance Act, The National Parole Resource Center, the Justice Reinvestment Initiative, the Pew Foundation and others to provide resources into the Commonwealth to pursue their goals of improving the management of offenders.

While there are many that deserve credit for the tremendous amount of work that has been done in the last few years, there are also standouts. The leadership of Secretary Brown and Commissioner Thompson recognized the hard work necessary to bring about change in large agencies and have demonstrated real leadership in ensuring that we never lose sight of the ultimate goal of ensuring Kentucky is a leader in their efforts to provide public safety to citizens of the Commonwealth of Kentucky.

Kentucky has undoubtedly become a leader and an inspiration to other jurisdictions on how to bring about meaningful change in offender management. I am proud to have been a small part of the effort.

FOR THE FIRST TIME.....

BY Jordan Harrod, Reentry P&P Officer

Working with a reentry caseload allows more time spent per offender and fosters a better relationship that helps break the old stigma of “*Probation and Parole is here to send people back to incarceration.*” Because of the additional time this caseload allows for each offender, our clients seem to let their guard down which in turn allows them to start utilizing the vast amount of resources available in their area. I measure success of an offender on the reentry caseload by their ability to ask for help, receive help and utilize it to be successful in school or work.

I had an offender who was a three time failure on supervision. The first time we met, he was resistant and gave lots of push back about what was expected from him while under supervision. After taking some time and explaining the reentry caseload, he calmed down and seemed to understand the purpose.

Based on his unemployment status, he was referred to the Goodwill Reentry by Design Program which is a two week employment readiness program that focuses on job skills, resume building, interview techniques; and offenders work with an employment specialist for job placement. He enrolled in and completed the Goodwill program but ran into some issues with his aftercare treatment provider who did not let him switch his class time so that he could work and go to interviews as per the employment specialist from Goodwill. He enlisted my help and I was able to collaborate with the treatment provider regarding his situation.

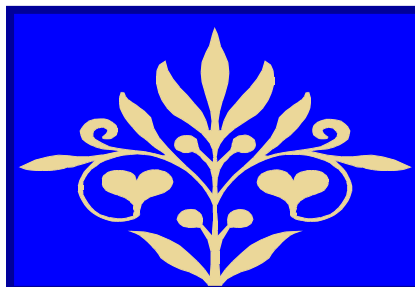
Through our collaboration, he was allowed to switch his classes. As I understand it, this issue set a precedent with the treatment provider and they became much more willing to allow offenders to switch classes to work around jobs and school.

From that point, based on his residential location, I referred the offender to the Newburg Justice Reinvestment Program where he had access to services that may have otherwise been out of reach for him, including networking for employment, community support and mental health services. From there, he was able to obtain a job and at the time he was transferred off the reentry caseload, he was still gainfully employed.

The collaboration of Probation and Parole with community resources worked together to make this offender successful on supervision – **for the first time.**



Jordan Harrod
Reentry P&P Officer
District 17-Louisville



EXPUNGEMENT OF MISDEMEANOR RECORD

CONVICTION OR NON-CONVICTION

Under acts of the 1992 and 1996 Kentucky General Assembly, persons with certain offenses may be eligible to have their criminal charges expunged. Once expunged, the record will no longer exist and it will be as if the charge was never entered.

REQUIREMENTS:

Criminal Record:

You must present proof of your criminal record. This can be obtained from pre-trial records in Frankfort.

Phone:	1-800-928-6381
Address:	Administrative Office of the Courts 100 Millcreek Park, Frankfort, KY 40601

Petition:

You must petition the District Court where the charges were placed to have your record expunged. Upon the filing of a petition, the court shall set a date for a hearing and shall notify the county attorney and anyone believed to have relevant information related to the expungement.

Fee:

A fee of one hundred (\$100.00) dollars is required per case number that you seek to have expunged. The fee can be in the form of money order, cash or credit card. If the expungement is denied in Court, the money will be refunded and mailed within 30 days of the court date.

RESTRICTIONS ON EXPUNGEMENT OF CONVICTIONS:

1. Felony convictions are not able to be expunged. In other words, if you have a felony charge you need not apply.
2. Criminal record must be free of other convictions within five (5) years before and five (5) years after the offense you are having expunged.
3. Crimes against children are not able to be expunged.
4. Sex crimes are not able to be expunged.
5. If you were placed on probation, at least five (5) years must have passed from the end of your probation.
6. A conviction cannot be expunged if you have charges pending.

Dismissed Charges:

If the charge was dismissed with prejudice or the defendant was found not guilty, the charge may be expunged after sixty (60) days with no fee.

TOOL FOR THE TOOL BOX

In the October edition of “The Tool Box” we discussed the term accountability. This month we will discuss the word “role model” and why this is such an important tool for the offender tool box.

Those of us that have experienced the LS/CMI training are acutely aware of the term “anti-social companions” and the ramifications that are associated with this in terms of the offender population and criminogenic needs.

Who the offender spends his leisure time with or the people he surrounds himself with is an important tool for successful reentry. Many times (especially with the younger offenders) we find that their friends, family and associates are a source of negative behavior patterns. Maybe this is all they have known prior to incarceration.

As part of the reentry philosophy, it is our responsibility to encourage the reduction of the offender’s association with criminals and enhance contact with pro-social peers. You may ask yourself, “How can I do this when they are in prison and surrounded by criminals?” The answer is simple.....you can be a source of positive influence in the way you conduct your business every day with each offender you engage. It can be how you carry yourself, how you handle anger, how you go about finding a solution to a problem and the respect you show to others.



MOST FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

QUESTION: Can I get some money when I leave?

ANSWER: The decision to give anyone “gate money” is made on a case by case basis at the Warden’s discretion. That decision will be based on several factors including the travel time to the home placement destination, the mode of transportation, and whether or not there was an effort on your part to save money during your incarceration.

QUESTION: How long do I have to report?

ANSWER: Offenders are advised that they shall report at intervals directed by their Parole Officer. The amount of time an offender reports is based on their sentence length. Offenders may also be told about levels of supervision and the requirements to be placed on a less restrictive supervision status based on the risk/needs assessment.

